

## East Donyland Parish Council

Full Parish Council Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017

St Lawrence's School, Rectory Road, Rowhedge starting 7.00pm.

### MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs Phil George, Richard Helliwell, Anna Appleyard, Peter Case, Doug Clay, Nina Crouchman, Jamie Gledhill, John Rowland; Clerk – Nicki Matthews and 6 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Phil George, opened the meeting at 7pm, and thanked Cllr Appleyard for her work in entering Rowhedge for the Village of the Year channel 4 programme; filming took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, and will continue at the Regatta on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**37/17 To receive and accept apologies and to note absences:** Apologies received from CBC Ward Cllrs Lilley, Scordis & Fox, and RRA Chairman Trisha Curran.

**38/17 To minute pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests of members relating to items on the agenda:** PG – non-pecuniary item 46/17 iii); RH – non-pecuniary item 46/17 i); JR – non-pecuniary items 43/17 & 46/17 iii)

**39/17 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017:** The minutes were proposed as correct by PG, 2<sup>nd</sup> RH – all agreed; minutes approved.

**40/17 Have your say! The Chairman will allocate a max.15 minutes to ask members of the public to speak (max. 3 minutes each) on any matters relevant to parish business:**

The following issues and questions were raised:

- Item 43/17 – concerns and questions raised regarding:
  - » What is the proposed location?
  - » High cost of this project – who will pay for it?
  - » How will a swing bridge be managed?
  - » Safety issues
  - » Overall viability of the project

PG advised that at present this is an initial idea, submitted by a resident who is asking the parish council to request a feasibility study to see if a bridge would be possible. The details in the report circulated last month are not relevant, and should be disregarded. Individuals have the right to apply for funding, and it would be the project team who would be responsible for delivering it, not the parish council. It appears the most suitable location may be near the towpath stile, beyond the moorings, as this would minimise river traffic, but no site has been formally proposed as that would need to be determined by a feasibility study. The Village Plan survey showed broad support of 60% for a footbridge, which is why the council are being asked to request a feasibility study to see if it could be achieved.

- Item 44/17 – endorsement for the proposed seating; the garden is receiving lots of positive comments and seating would be well used.
- Item 46/17 – do parish councillors visit each application site to assess it? PG advised that the parish council don't, this is the responsibility of CBC as the planning authority and either the case officer or the planning committee (in the case of larger applications) should do so.
- Bloor wharf development – concern raised regarding the area at the south of the development site, where Bloor are developing a play area on an existing wildlife site, and a path which has been in use for decades is being built over. PG advised that the path is not a public right of way, but there is the option to apply for it to be designated as such given its long usage. However, Bloor have indicated they are happy to retain a path across the area so this may not be necessary. The Clerk is liaising with CBC to ascertain whether the area under development is part of the approved site or whether they are acting outside of the agreed boundary.

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### **41/17 To receive and note reports from**

- i) County Councillor, Kevin Bentley: absent, no report.
- ii) CBC Ward Councillors Mike Lilley, Adam Fox & Lee Scordis: apologies, no report.
- iii) Clerk: noted, with congratulations on completion of CiLCA portfolio.
- iv) Village Bus Representative – Elizabeth Trellis: new timetables are now available (supply held in parish council office); the 66a now runs hourly. Feedback on the new benches is that they are too low and short and do not provide back support.
- v) Rowhedge Residents' Association – Trisha Curran: apologies; DC reported that the Open Gardens has been cancelled due to lack of interest. The AGM will be in September, date to be advised.

**42/17 To agree the payments list already checked by Cllrs Helliwell & Clay:** PG proposed the payments be agreed, NC 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed. *Action – the Clerk.*

**43/17 To consider a request from John Niland that the parish council apply to the Local Highways Panel for a feasibility study for a foot and cycle bridge between Rowhedge and Wivenhoe:** JR advised that the original aim of the project was to increase connectivity for walks and cycling, provide economic benefit to local businesses, and give easier access to trains for Rowhedge residents. In addition to the Village Plan survey mentioned in item 40/17, a separate consultation showed 64% support for a bridge, with similar support in Wivenhoe. The idea was submitted to the LHP previously and there was interest at CBC/ECC, but internal issues with the LHP led to no further action being taken. J Niland is now seeking to bring the project back to the table and identify if it is feasible, and therefore is asking the parish council to request a study to determine this. J Niland does not have any pecuniary interest in the project, but has carried out initial research into the idea. PG noted that if the parish council requests a feasibility study it does not mean that they support the installation of a bridge, it is simply identifying that there is community support for the idea and it therefore should be investigated further. After discussion, JR proposed that the council applies to the Local Highways Panel for a feasibility study for a foot and cycle bridge between Rowhedge and Wivenhoe; AA 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed.

**44/17 To consider a proposal from Cllr Rowland to purchase new benches for the Community Garden on Heath Road (quotes to be provided at the meeting):** JR noted that there is currently only a sleeper bench with no backrest in the garden, and providing more seating would enable residents to use the space more fully as a quiet place to relax. There is an existing concrete base near the plum tree where a straight bench could be installed, and a circular bench could be installed around the oak tree. Cllrs discussed the options circulated, including the need for back support, maintenance requirements of different materials, environmental considerations, possibility of local design/construction, and need for secure installation to prevent theft. RH suggested that the council could install one bench initially and then review and assess the need for a second seat. JR proposed that the council purchase a circular teak bench, to be securely installed around the oak tree, and treated with one application eco-friendly stain at a max total cost of £1,200; PG 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed.

**45/17 To deal with matters arising from the previous Council minutes not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda (refer Action List):** No matters arising requiring discussion.

**46/17 To discuss planning applications and note decision papers as listed: *Action – the Clerk***

- i) **Planning application 171151: 20a Taylors Rd; continued use of detached outbuilding as residential annexe occupied by family relative of the occupier:** PG proposed the council support this application; DC 2<sup>nd</sup> – agreed by majority vote.

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- ii) **Planning application 171309: 168 Rowhedge Rd; single storey rear and side extensions:**  
PG proposed the council make a comment of ‘no objections’; JR 2<sup>nd</sup> – all agreed.
- iii) **Planning application 171407: 20 High St; application for tree works in a conservation area to remove branch from 1 walnut tree to prevent damage to telecoms cables:** RH proposed the council support this application; PC 2<sup>nd</sup> – agreed by majority vote.
- iv) **Planning application 171278: Rowhedge Wharf; application to discharge conditions 5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,16,18,20,24,26,27,30,35,39,43,44,45,47 of planning permission 144693:**  
Cllrs noted that expert planning officers will be required to determine whether these conditions have been satisfactorily met, and no comments were proposed.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Agreed as a true record.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Chairman